



SAULT COLLEGE ACADEMIC BUILDING SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

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ArcelorMittal Dofasco Steel Design, Fall 2013)

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TEAM

ARCHITECT: Tillmann Ruth
Robinson with EPOH Inc.
Architects and Consulting
Engineers

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Ellis
Don

STEEL CLADDING SUPPLIER:
Agway Metals Inc.

**LIGHT STEEL FRAMING (GIRTS
AND CHANNELS) SUPPLIER &
INSTALLER:** Flynn Canada

PHOTOGRAPHY: Shai Gil
Photography



Eye-catching resourceful and innovative design

Taking their cue from the breath-taking local landscape, the team at Tillmann Ruth Robinson Architects gave a much-needed facelift to Sault Ste. Marie College. The new 6,968m² (75,000 sq. ft.) \$21M academic building was designed to blend the new with the old. The new building includes a spacious front entry and exhibit space, plus flexible classrooms for aviation. A 743m² (8,000 sq. ft.) interactive learning commons was added to provide the students with casual space to interact.



“This was the first time the college had a new building added to it in many years. It is an important gateway building for the college itself. We situated the building at the front entry. We wanted the design to reflect the college, as well as the community of Sault Ste. Marie, and its location”, explains Scott Robinson, Director of Design for Tillmann Ruth Robinson. “It is a blend of contemporary and natural materials. Along with the steel cladding we used natural stone and wood to reflect the surrounding geographical area.”

“Kids are hanging out in the common area. They now have a place to meet and socialize after class. It has a big impact on how students feel about the college, which is rewarding,” Robinson says. “The new area provides some non-academic social spaces that aren’t quite as formal as libraries. When people say they feel good about being there, that inspires us.”

The Tillmann Ruth Robinson team faced a number of obstacles – but successfully completed the project in fourteen months to finish by March 2011. “The challenges we had were a tight budget as well as a tight timeframe. We had an aggressive

construction schedule,” Robinson says. “We will take the architectural vocabulary we created here and use it on additional buildings on the campus.”

“Not only does the new building provide great curb appeal, it is truly distinguishable as a Northern Ontario College,” states Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College, “Sustainable design elements have been included in the planning of this complex that incorporates a local flavour such as indigenous plants, wood roofing, steel cladding and copper, the latter having historical significance to First Nations people, who account for 20% of Sault College students.”

For the modern look of the building, Robinson and his team favoured steel, which was both cost-effective and flexible enough to allow for innovative design. “Using steel allowed us to customize the panels and siding for a fresh modern look. It complemented the natural materials of stone and wood,” he says. “The more-modern materials reflect the forward-thinking vision of the school.” The preformed, prefinished steel cladding is 0.76mm (.0299”) Z275 (G90) galvanized with the 10000 Series paint system.



As can be seen in this photograph of the Academic Building, the predominate vertical steel cladding panels are Agway Metal’s HF-IINF panels, coloured Grey Berry QC3659, while the narrower vertical panels are Agway Metal’s HF-15NF, coloured Pebble QC3661, all with the 10000 Series paint system. (Agway’s 7-175 panel is used on the penthouse, which is not visible in this view).

PREPAINTED STEEL CLADDING TYPES ARE:

PMC-1: Agway HF-IINF, colour: QC3659 Grey Berry

PMC-2: Agway HF-15NF, colour: QC3661 Pebble

PMC-3: Agway 7-175, colour: QC3661 Pebble

Material is .76mm (.0299") prepainted Z275 (G90) galvanized
ASTM A653/653M Grade A

LIGHT STEEL FRAMING:

Steel subgirts ("Z" bars, angles and channels) were manufactured from Z275 (G90) galvanized sheet steel in accordance with requirements of ASTM A653M Grade A, Structural Steel Quality Grade 22 (230).

The darker vertical panels on the building are Grey Berry QC3659.
The lighter vertical panels are Pebble QC3661.



The major elements of the 6,966m² (75,000 sq. ft.) academic building, include a new entry and exhibition hall, 17 state-of-the-art classrooms, aviation and natural resource laboratories, a 100 seat lecture hall, 743m² (8,000 sq. ft.) of interactive learning commons and administrative spaces. The new Academic Wing also provides much needed formal and informal social spaces and gathering places that promote casual sharing of ideas and boundary-crossing.



The design communicates forward looking architecture, while a sensitive blend of modern and traditional expression is achieved by mixing natural stone and wood with more contemporary materials of curtain wall and prefinished steel panels.



**Canadian Sheet Steel
Building Institute**

652 Bishop St. N., Unit 2A
Cambridge, ON N3H 4V6
Tel: (519) 650-1285
Fax (519) 650-8081
www.cssbi.ca